

GREG WALDEN  
SECOND DISTRICT, OREGON  
DEPUTY WHIP

**ENERGY AND COMMERCE**

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
RANKING MEMBER

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY,  
AND THE INTERNET

E-MAIL VIA WEBSITE:  
<http://walden.house.gov>



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

September 23, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:  
2352 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3702  
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-6730

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
843 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 400  
MEDFORD, OR 97504  
TELEPHONE: (541) 776-4646  
TOLL FREE: (800) 533-3303

1051 NW BOND STREET, SUITE 400  
BEND, OR 97701  
TELEPHONE: (541) 389-4408

1211 WASHINGTON AVENUE  
LA GRANDE, OR 97850  
TELEPHONE: (541) 624-2400

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

*UCB  
merger  
1541*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The pending merger of CenturyLink and Qwest is a significant development for Oregon's residents, businesses, educational institutions, health care providers, and entities considering establishing or expanding operations in Oregon. This transaction holds the potential to advance the quality and capacity of telecommunications services in rural and urban areas of my state. Qwest has been a valued partner for many Oregon consumers and businesses and I expect the same relationships to continue with CenturyLink.

Looking back on how previous telecommunication mergers have unfolded in Oregon, the 2008/2009 merger between CenturyLink (known at that time as CenturyTel) and Embarq comes to mind. As you know, CenturyLink assumed all Embarq network properties, including those in Oregon during this merger. From the perspective of a policymaker and customer in the Embarq service area that CenturyLink assumed, I would characterize this merger as a smooth one. As the Federal Communications Commission reviews the merger of CenturyLink and Qwest, I ask the Commission to make sure that this merger is as seamless and efficient as possible for residential, business and wholesale customers located in the impacted service area in Oregon. I am also aware that our Oregon Public Utility Commission is evaluating this transaction and I hope you will take their views into account.

I appreciate your careful consideration of this matter.

Best regards,

  
Greg Walden  
Member of Congress

Cc:

Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Rob McDowell  
Commissioner Mingon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Baker

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 25, 2010

The Honorable Greg Walden  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2352 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walden:

Thank you for your letter supporting the proposed transfer of control between CenturyLink and Qwest. I value your perspective on the potential benefits of this transaction and I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Many of the issues associated with this transaction – investment in broadband infrastructure, extending broadband to rural areas, and job creation – are among my highest priorities as Chairman. The Commission takes seriously its evaluation of transfer of control applications; and you can be assured that it will consider these issues as part of its careful and deliberate review of this proposed transfer.

Your letter will be included in the record of this proceeding. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Genachowski", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julius Genachowski